



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Kind Honors Public Health Leaders

*Juneau County Health Department Celebrates Public Health Week in Mauston*

**Mauston, WI** – In celebration of National Public Health Week, April 5-11, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind today joined public health professionals of the Juneau County Health Department for an awards presentation and open house to recognize the successes of public health and the efforts to eliminate health disparities in rural communities.

“Health disparities are a major concern in Wisconsin, and rural residents in particular tend to have greater health issues for a number of reasons,” said Rep. Kind. “Wisconsin’s public health agencies and professionals have done an outstanding job to address these disparities, and I am proud to honor these community leaders and their work to meet today’s public health challenges. Juneau County residents are fortunate to benefit from their contributions.”

This year, National Public Health Week is focused on finding solutions to health disparities. Historically, rural communities have higher rates of chronic illness and poorer overall health status than urban communities. Some potential reasons for disparities in rural areas include: lack of access to care due to transportation challenges, lack of physicians, and insufficient services; a disproportionate number of people without healthcare insurance; and higher poverty levels.

“It is important to identify and address the gaps that exist in various services and to develop appropriate solutions to these disparities,” stated Kind. “We can make progress at the local level by informing people about the public health resources available to them in their communities and also by educating individuals about how their personal choices can improve their health.”